

Parliament in Britain

IN a written answer to a question from Mr. Boston on June 20, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, Mr. J. Boyden, stated that on the basis of a special enquiry made in 1964 it was estimated that in that year the construction industry spent about £2.5 millions on research. This is the equivalent of 0.3 per cent of its gross output, compared with a national average for all industries of almost 2.7 per cent.

In opening an adjournment debate on building methods and bad-weather precautions on June 21, Mr. Boston returned to the question of the attitude of the building industry to research, and Mr. Boyden, replying for the Government, said that the Minister, Mr. R. Prentice, had that day held a conference with those concerned with setting up a new organization for research and information in the construction industry. The discussions had gone well, and many sections of the industry were sharing a keen interest in raising the necessary funds. The question of continuous working during bad weather and the winter would be an important part of both research and information work. He hoped that the new body would follow up the steps already taken by the Ministry and that in future it would be customary for the industry to work a normal week, except perhaps during cataclysmic weather. The need of research was fairly well known and, while agreeing that the construction industry as a whole spent less on research than many manufacturing industries, Mr. Boyden hoped that the new organization would give just the impetus needed.

In reply to a question in the House of Lords on June 21, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and for the Colonies, Lord Beswick, said that a National Reports Centre had been set up at the National Lending Library for Science and Technology as a British counterpart to the United States Clearing House which produced a fortnightly list entitled *United States Government Research Reports*. The British Centre published a monthly bulletin entitled *British Research and Development Reports* in which accessions to the stock of reports were announced. The service started only this year, and Lord Beswick agreed with the Earl of Bessborough about the importance of distributing the bulletin widely. Any organization could be put on the mailing list if it applied to the National Lending Library.

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on June 20, the Minister for Land and Natural Resources, Mr. F. Willey, said that a hydrographic survey of the Wash area, with gravity coring of the sea-bed, current gauging and seismic investigations with tests of samples, would form an integral part of a feasibility study of a Wash barrage. It would be wrong, Mr. Willey said, to embark on such a scheme except as part of a comprehensive investigation. The report on the Water Resources of the Great Ouse Basin suggested a five-year programme of investigations which, with the preparations of designs and estimates, would cost about £1.5 million. The hydrographic survey and related soil investigations, including boreholes, would account for almost £1 million and would take two to three years.

University News:

Aberdeen

MR. D. F. KERRIDGE has been appointed to the chair of statistics as from August 1.

Aston

MR. A. J. EDE has been appointed professor of mechanical engineering as from August 1.

Leeds

DR. D. DOWSON has been appointed to the chair of fluid mechanics and tribology in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

London

DR. G. S. NELSON, reader in medical parasitology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed to the William Julien Courtauld chair of helminthology tenable at that school.

Manchester

MR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH has been appointed to a newly established additional chair of mathematics; Dr. F. D. Kahn has been appointed to a newly established second chair of astronomy; Dr. D. B. G. Edwards has been appointed to a newly established chair of computer engineering.

Announcements

MR. NIGEL CALDER, editor of the *New Scientist* since 1963, will be leaving his present post on October 1 this year. He will be succeeded by Mr. Donald Gould, who has won a considerable reputation in recent years, chiefly as a free-lance writer on medical subjects. Mr. Calder intends to devote himself to free-lance writing.

OVER 300 British scientists have signed an appeal to the French Government to cancel the new series of nuclear tests about to be made in the Pacific. The protest was published this week as a full-page advertisement in the Paris weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur*. Over 30 of the signatories are Fellows of the Royal Society or heads of departments at British universities.

DR. COLUMBUS O'DONNELL ISELIN has been awarded the fourth Henry Bryant Bigelow Medal for Oceanography by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Dr. Iselin is a former director of the Institution and has held the Henry Bryant Bigelow chair there since 1958; he is also professor of oceanography at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Bigelow was the first director of Woods Hole, holding the post from 1930 until 1940, and was also the first recipient of the Medal, which was awarded him in 1961.

PROF. T. BERGERON has been awarded the International Meteorological Organization Prize by the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization. This Prize is awarded annually for outstanding work in meteorology and international collaboration.

DR. PAUL-A. GIGUÈRE, director of the Department of Chemistry in the Université Laval in Quebec, has been elected president of the Chemical Institute of Canada during 1966-67.

THE following have been elected honorary fellows of the Institute of Biology: Sir Macfarlane Burnet, Prof. E. B. Chain, Dr. J. C. Kendrew, Sir Peter Medawar.

DR. E. A. WALKER, president of the Pennsylvania State University and chairman of the National Science Board, has been elected president of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, in succession to Dr. A. B. Kinzel.